The berries of the Juniper have long been employed for the purposes of a diuretic, particularly in dropsy. Many of the older writers, whose names are of high authority in medicine, have given favorable reports of the operation of this medicine in hydropic cases. It has been used in substance, in infusion, and in various compound medicines. The effects of its most popular preparation, that of an ardent spirit, are too universally known to require particular elucidation. In addition to the specific effect of the essential oil, some physicians have attributed virtues to the rob, or inspissated decoction of the berries. Hoffman found it of great use in debility of the stomach and intestines, particularly in old people. The stronger preparations have been found useful in uterine obstructions, and in paralytic affections of the vesica urinaria.

Linnæus informs us, in his Flora Lapponica, that a fermented decoction of Juniper berries is used in Sweden as a common drink, but he denies the infusion being substituted for tea and coffee, as some writers have stated, in Lapland. Woodville and others have misquoted him on this point.

The American Juniper berries are considerably inferior to the European in strength and

flavour. The best of the latter are said to be from Italy. But of the imported specimens, which I have examined at the druggists' shops in this country, very few possess any remains of the original strength, and much the greater portion of them appear to have undergone at least one distillation, before their exportation from Europe. The best Juniper berries have a strong impregnation of volatile oil, which, having been once tasted, cannot be easily mistaken. Those which have been subjected to distillation are dry and tasteless.

BOTANICAL BEFERENCES.

Juniperus communis, Linn.—Smith, *Flor. Brit.* iii. 1085.—*Engl. Bot. t.* 1100.—Woodville, ii. *t.* 95.—Michaux, ii. 245.—Pursh, ii. 646.—Blackwell, *t.* 187.

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Murray, *App. Med.* i. 34.—Lewis, *Disp.* 240.—Linnæus, *Flora Lapp.* 376.—Woodville, *ut supra.*

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